Cuba Is Reportedly Busy Exporting Its Subversion Techniques to Africa

By Dan Kurzman
Washington Post Staff Writer

Cuba is supplementing its Latin America with a major effort to help bring down African governments.

Indications are mounting that Cuba is busily exporting its subversion techniques to Africa. Among them, according to informed sources, are these:

• In late May or early June, a Cuban vessel reportedly discharged from 30 to 90 tons of arms at Dares-Salaam, the capital of Tanzania.

• Up to 100 Cuban Communists have arrived in Tanzania since late April mainly to give guerrilla training to African rebels of several countries.

• Some 1000 Africans are believed to have received guerrilla training and indoctrination in Cuba since 1962, and this program seems to have been accelerated in recent months.

The destination of the arms shipment is not clear, the sources said. Weapons, apparently consisting of small arms, machine guns and mortars, could be intended for the Tanzanian army or for rebel groups in other countries.

The Cubans who have arrived in Tanzania are understood to be training select rebel groups from the Congo (Leopoldville) and the two Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola. One training center is believed to be located on the island of Zanzibar, which merged with Tanganyika to form the nation of Tanzania.

2 Cubans Killed in Congo

In late June, two Cubans were killed by Congolese government troops in the eastern Congo. They had been fighting alongside rebel forces.

According to the Congo government, documents found on the bodies indicated that the two Cubans had left Havana for Moscow in late April, and that they then proceeded to Prague and Dar-es-Salaam before heading for the Congo.

Guerrilla training in Cuba, the informed sources said, is known to have been given in the last two years to Africans from Mozambique, Tanzania, Senegal and Malawi. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that citizens of Portuguese Guinea, Kenya, and the Congo (Leopoldville) have also had such training. In addition, youths from Mali and the Congo (Brazzaville) have been studying in Cuba.

Senegal Convicts 27

In late June, 27 Senegalese were tried in Dakar and found guilty of subversion. One of the accused testified that the group had been recruited for guerrilla training in Mali and then been sent to Cuba for further training. He said they, as well as other Senegalese, stayed in Cuba for about eight months. They returned to Mali in late 1964, then to Senegal, where they were arrested during December and January.

The witness said the Senegalese had been given instruction in the maintenance and handling of small arms. They also underwent combat exercises.

After the overthrow of Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, sources indicated, Cuba may have moved its base of subversive activities from Algeria to Tanzania.

Channels for Cuba

The Cuban effort to subvert Africa is believed motivated by several factors. First, it is seeking additional channels for release of its revolutionary energies. Second, success in Africa could increase its sagging prestige within the Communist bloc. And third, Cuba, by increasing its influence in Africa, hopes to win the support of more Africans in its conflict with the United States.

The campaign in Africa seems to have started seriously with the trip of Industries Minister Ernesto Che Guevara to Africa early this year. Only two months after his return to Cuba, the Cubans started appearing in Tanzania.